Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 7676

PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME AND PHILLIPS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEETING: JAPANESE REQUEST FOR PREPARATORY TALKS WITH SECRETARY BERGLAND'S PARTY

- 1. SUMMARY. JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WISH TO DICUSS WITH SECRETARY BERGLAND OR APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY THE APPROACHES THEY AND WE MIGHT TAKE AT UPCOMING WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEETING IN MANILA. END SUMMARY.
- 2. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS (NAKAMURA, CHIEF, UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES DIVISION, AND SHIMADA OF SAME DIVISION) CALLED IN AGATT AND ECONOMIC OFFICER MAY 24 TO REQUEST THAT DURING SECRETARY BERGLAND'S VISIT EITHER SOME PART OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER HATOYAMA OR A DISCUSSION BETWEEN OTHER MEMBERS OF VISITING PARTY AND APPROPRIATE JAPANESE OFFICIALS BE DEVOTED TO PREPARATION FOR JUNE 20 WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEETING IN MANILA.
- 3. JAPANESE NOTED THAT PREPARATORY MEETING WITNESSED "CONFRONTATION" BETWEEN G-77 AND DEVELOPED NATIONS AND THAT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE REPORT CONTAINS MANY BRACKETED ITEMS. GIVEN THIS SITUATION, THEY WONDER WHETHER U.S. PLANS TO CONTINUE EFFORT TO FOCUS MANILA MEETING ON NUTRITION PROBLEM. CONFIDENTIAL.

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THEY WISH TO TAKE A "POSITIVE APPROACH" AT THE MEETING. THEY HAVE EXPRESSED A WISH TO FORMA A "COMMON FRONT" WITH US AT THE WFP MEETING IN SO FAR AS THIS IS POSSIBLE, AND THEY WONDER WHAT CONCESSIONS WE MAY BE PREPARED TO MAKE IN VIEW OF G-77 PREOCCUPATION WITH FOOD TRADE, FOOD AID, ETC.

4. IF SUBJECT NOT CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE FOR SECRETARY

BERGLAND'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, JAPANESE OFFICIALS WHO PLAN ATTEND WFP MEETING, INCLUDING DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL MURAKAMI OF UNITED NATIONS BUREAU IN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND A "HIGH OFFICIAL IN AGRICULTURE MINISTRY" WOULD HOPE TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH APPROPRIATE OTHER MEMBERS OF VISITING PARTY. NAKAMURA COMMENTED THAT MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SUZUKI, WHO WILL JUST HAVE RETURNED FROM MOSCOW INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE UPPER HOUSE CAMPAIGN, IS MOST UNLIKELY TO ATTEND MANILA WFC MEETING. DIRECTOR SHIMURA OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT IN MAF IS LIKELY TO REPRESENT JAPAN.

5. SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT 2 P.M. JUNE 6 WOULD LEAVE POSSIBLE TIME OPEN BETWEEN 2 P.M. AND 3 P.M. FOR SEPARATE MEETING ENVISAGED BY JAPANESE. WE BELIEVE THAT IF VISITORS CHOOSE TO DISCUSS IN TOKYO ISSUES CONNECTED WITH WFC MEETING, AN EXPRESSION OF CONCERN WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AT JAPAN'S FAILURE DESPITE ITS POSITION AS AN ASIAN LEADER TO SEND TO THIS ASIAN MEETING A REPRESENTATIVE OF A RANK COMPARABLE TO THAT OF MOST DELEGATIONS HEADS.

6. APPRECIATE INDICTION WHETHER (AND IF SO, WHICH) VISITORS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS WITH JAPANESE APPROACHES WE PLAN TAKE AT WFC MEETING.
SHOESMITH

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